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# CIRCULAR TRACK TESTS ON LOW-COST BITUMINOUS MIXTURES 

BY THE DIVISION OF TESTS, BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

Reported by C A. CARPENTER, Associate Civil Engineer, and J. F. GOODE, Junior Highway Engineer

T$\checkmark$ HE small indoor circular track and the device for applying traffic in making laboratory tests on bituminous surfaces were briefly described in the January 1934 issue of Public Roads. This apparatus is being used in the Bureau's laboratory at the Arlington Experiment Farm near Washington to study the various factors that influence the behavior of bituminous road-surfacing mixtures.

The test track, shown in figure 1, is laid in a circular concrete trough 12 feet in mean diameter, 18 inches wide, and $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inches in mean depth. The track consists of a base course of gravel, crushed stone, or other suitable material and a wearing course of the bituminous surfacing material to be tested. The surface may be tested dry or the base and also the surface may be flooded or maintained in a moist condition through capillarity by introducing water from a concentric water trough through perforations at the base of the inner curb.

- Two automobile wheels, equipped with 20 by 6.00 low-pressure tires and mounted on the ends of a centrally pivoted steel beam, are used for compacting both base and surface and for testing the surface course. The beam is rotated by a motor-driven vertical shaft and operating speeds of $41 / 2,6$, and 9 miles per hour are obtained by the use of a three-step cone pully transmission. The entire weight of the wheel and beam assembly, amounting to approximately 800 pounds per wheel, is imposed on the track.

Distribution of this "traffic" over the entire width of the track during compaction is accomplished by slowly shifting the pivotal point of the beam back and forth through a distance of 18 inches by means of a handoperated wheel. Although mounted on the rotating beam, this wheel may be operated while the beam is in motion. For compacting, the operating speed is maintained at $4 \frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour.

For testing the compacted wearing course, the pivotal point of the beam is set and clamped $21 / 2$ inches off center so that the wheels travel in two concentric lanes 5 inches apart. This accelerates the test to some extent by concentrating the traffic and producing a transverse kneading action between the two wheel tracks. The maximum operating speed of 9 miles per hour is maintained during testing.
one type and grading of aggregate used in all mixtures
This report describes the use of this apparatus in studying the road-mix or oil-processed gravel type of surfacing widely used in the Western States. Tests were conducted to determine the effect of variations in the quantity and consistency of the bituminous material and the effect of water in the surfacing mixture, in the base, and in both base and surfacing mixture. The density and percentage of voids in the trafficcompacted mixtures, both before and after testing, were determined and specimens of the freshly prepared mixtures were also compacted by various other methods for comparative density studies.

Most of the experimental surfacing mixtures were laid on a sand-clay-gravel base course of the type commonly used in the Western States for road-mix construction. The introduction of water into the base course incident to saturating the surface mixture produced simultaneous failure of both the base and bituminous surface. Therefore, in order to eliminate the effect of base failure, a more rigid type of base course was substituted for the sand-clay-gravel in testing the surfacing mixtures on a wet base.

One type and grading of aggregate was used in all of the surface mixtures discussed in this report. It consisted of 54 percent of crushed Potomac River gravel, 31 percent of Potomac River concrete sand, and 15 percent of local silty soil. The gravel was of good quality and was coarse enough to provide a crushed product of high angularity. It was crushed to pass the 1 -inch screen, and 95 percent by weight of the crushed product had two or more fractured faces to the fragment. The filler material was a local silty clay soil that was dried and pulverized to pass the no. 40 sieve. Soil tests on this material gave the following results:
Amount passing the no. 200 sieve, percent-
Clay content, percent.
Liquid limit
Centrifuge moisture equivalent
Plasticity index
The aggregate for each mixture was carefully proportioned to conform closely to the grading shown in table 1.

Table 1.-Grading of aggregates used in bituminous mixtures tested on the circular track

| Passing- | Retained on- | Percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1-inch screen | 1. 1 |
| 1-inch screen | 3/4-inch screen | 5. 7 |
| 3/4-inch screen | 1/2-inch screen | 16.3 |
| 1/2-inch screen | 1/4-inch screen | 17.0 |
| $1 / 4$-inch screen | No. 10 sieve. | 12.4 |
| No. 10 sieve. | No. 20 sieve | 10.8 |
| No. 20 sieve. | No. 30 sieve. | 6.0 |
| No. 30 sieve. | No. 40 sieve. | 5.4 |
| No. 40 sieve. | No. 50 sieve. | 4. 2 |
| No. 50 sieve. | No. 80 sieve_ | 5.4 |
| No. 80 sieve. | No. 100 sieve | 1.7 |
| No. 100 sieve. | No. 200 sieve | 3. 5 |
| No. 200 sieve. |  | 10.5 |

Five "straight steam-and-fire reduced" asphaltic residual oils were used throughout this series of tests. All were produced from the same crude oil and by the same refiner. The results of laboratory tests on these five materials are given in table 2. Materials A, B, C, and D conformed approximately to the slow-curing, liquid, asphaltic materials of the grades $\mathrm{SC}-1, \mathrm{SC}-2$, SC- 3 , and SC-4, respectively, as defined in the recommended specifications of the Bureau and the Asphalt Institute. Material E was a semisolid asphaltic residue similar to that commonly referred to as $94+$ asphaltic road oil. The consistencies of these materials, measured by their float time at $122^{\circ}$ F., were $10,16,27,37$, and 170 , as shown in table 2.


Figure 1.-The Circular Test Track and Testing Apparatus. The Wheels are Resting on a Compacted Gravel Base Course.

Table 2.-Results of tests on bituminous materials

|  | Test results for materials- |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | B | C | D | E |
| Flash point, ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ | 300 | 295 | 310 | 310 | 490 |
|  | 0.952 | 0.972 | 0.976 | 0.985 |  |
| Saybolt-Furol viscosity at $122^{\circ}$ F., seconds. | 84 | 290 | 780 | 1,311 |  |
| Saybolt-Furol viscosity at $140^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., seconds. |  |  | 335 | + 527 |  |
| Penetration, 100 grams, 5 seconds, $77^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. |  |  |  |  | 338 |
| Float at $122^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., seconds | 10 | 16 | 27 | 37 | 170 |
| Total distillate to $437^{\circ}$ F., percent by volume | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total distillate to $600^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., percent by |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total distillate to $680^{\circ}$ F., percent by | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 11.0 | 13.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | 0 |
| Float of residue at $122^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., seconds. | 20 | 39 | 48 | 55 | 176 |
| Solubility of residue in $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$, percent | 99. 95 | 99. 95 | 99. 92 | 99. 91 | 99.90 |
| Residue of 100 penetration, percent. | 52 | 63 | 70 | 75 | 93 |

TESTS CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF VARIATIONS IN QUANTITY AND CONSISTENCY OF THE BITUMINOUS MATERIAL
In conducting the tests on the water-free mixtures, the circular track was divided into five equal sections or one for each of the five grades of bituminous material. In each group of tests all five sections contained the same percentage of bitumen by volume. Five tracks were laid and tested, each track containing a different percentage of bitumen by volume. The percentages used, calculated on both a weight and volume basis, are given in table 3. In the following discussion all the mixtures in track 1 will be referred to as $3 \frac{1}{2}$-percent mixtures, those in track 2 as 4 -percent mixtures, etc., and the various sections will be designed by the identification letter of the contained bitumen and the percentage of bitumen in the mixture. For instance, the section of track 1 containing material A will be referred to as section $\mathrm{A}-31 / 2$.

Table 3.-Percentages of bituminous material used in determining the effect of quantity and consistency of the bituminous matesial on the performance of bituminous mixtures

| Bituminous material |  | Amount of bituminous material in mixtures, by weight |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Identification | Float at $122^{\circ}$ F. | Track 1 (9.1 percent by volume) | Track 2 (10.3 percent by volume) | Track 3 (11.5 percent by volume) | Track 4 (12.7 percent by volume) | Track 5 (13.9 percent by volume) |
| A | 10 | Percent 3.5 3.5 | Percent | Percent | Percent 5.0 | Percent |
| B | 16 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 5.1 | 5. 6 |
| C | 27 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 5.1 | 5.6 |
| D | 37 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 5. 2 | 5.7 |
| E | 170 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 5.3 | 5.8 |

About 400 pounds of each mixture was prepared, which provided enough material to lay a section 7.4 feet long and $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches in compacted depth, and also provided sufficient excess material for all other tests performed on the mixture. The mixtures were prepared by hand mixing with rakes and spades in a shallow iron pan. The aggregate and bituminous material were warmed to facilitate mixing, and for material E it was necessary to heat both the stone and the bituminous material to approximately $250^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. to obtain satisfactory mixing. All mixtures except those containing material E were laid at air temperature. The E mixtures were laid at approximately $150^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$., and in building each track the E mixture was laid last in order that compaction might be started while it was still at approximately that temperature.
The mixtures were placed in two layers each slightly less than 2 inches in loose thickness. The first layer was compacted by about 100 wheel trips distributed


MATERIAL A- $5 \frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT BY WEIGHT
Figure 2.-Typical Transverse Profiles from Circular Track Showing Progressive Rutting of Bituminous Mixtures Under Traffic.
over the 18 inches of track width, the compaction being held to a minimum in order to prevent the formation of a seal and resulting plane of weakness between the first and second layers. The second layer was then spread and leveled by raking and troweling, tamped with 50 -pound hand tamping irons, and brushed with a hand brush to fill surface voids. Compaction was then completed by distributing the traffic of the rubber-tired wheels traveling at a speed of approximately $4 \frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour.

Compaction with the rubber-tired wheels was continued as long as any subsidence of the surface of any section as a whole could be produced. This required from 3,500 to 4,500 wheel trips distributed over the 18 -inch track, the number of trips required to compact to "refusal" depending upon the richness of the mixtures. The lean mixtures required more traffic for compacting than did the rich ones.

Subsidence of the surface during compacting and vertical displacement during testing were measured by means of a recording profilometer, the feet of which rested on permanent brass plugs set in the curbs. Transverse profiles were taken at frequent intervals both during compacting and testing. Each section of surfacing was provided with two sets of base plugs for taking transverse profiles. Two typical series of these profiles, as traced from the original record sheets, are shown in figure 2. Figure 3 shows the profilometer with a record sheet in place.

The testing of each section for stability and resistance to wear was started as soon as compaction was completed, the beam being locked in testing position 2 $1 / 2$ inches off center so that the wheels traveled in two concentric circular paths 5 inches apart. As ruts were formed in the less stable mixtures, ridges of displaced material were pushed up toward the two curbs. Figure 4 illustrates the appearance of some of the sections while testing was in progress.


Figure 3.-The Recording Profilometer with Record Sheet in Place.

## MIXTURES WITH HIGH-VISCOSITY BITUMINOUS』MATERIALS HAD GREATEST STABILITIES

In figure 4 it will be noted that section A-4, although not lacking in stability, showed serious raveling, indicating insufficient bituminous material to bond the aggregate, while section A-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ showed rutting and shoving, indicating an excess of bitumen. Section B-4 was typical of the remainder of the 4 -percent mixtures, which retained smooth, even surfaces throughout the test. Section B-4 $1 / 2$ showed considerable rutting and shoving, indicating excessive bitumen and illustrating the necessity of closely controlling the bitumen content. Comparison of $\mathrm{C}-4 \frac{1}{2}$ with $\mathrm{B}-4 \frac{1}{2}$ illustrates the effect of greater consistency of the bituminous material in reducing the tendency of the richer mixtures to shove and rut. However, in section C-5 instability was indicated by rutting, showing an excess of bitumen.

In calculating the average vertical displacement of the surface, the cross-sectional area of the ruts and the cross-sectional area of the ridges, in square inches, were measured from the profiles with a planimeter. The total of these areas divided by the width of the track ( 18 inches) gave the average vertical displacement. Figure 5 shows vertical displacement plotted against amount of traffic for all consistencies and proportions of bituminous materials tested. The relation of average vertical displacement to consistency and


SECTION A-4


SECTION B-4


SECTION C-4 $\frac{1}{2}$


SECTION A-4 $\frac{1}{2}$


SECTION B-4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Figure 4.-Appearance of Some of the Bituminous Mixtures During Testing.
amount of bitumen is shown in figure 6 , which was developed by taking vertical displacement at 5,000 trips from figure 5 and plotting it against percentage of bitumen in the mixture. Brass plugs were set in the surfaces and observed for forward movement of the
surfacing material. Measurements showed that shoving was, in general, proportional to vertical displacement. Vertical and longitudinal displacements and numerical ratings of the test mixtures on the basis of both are given in table 4.


Figure 5.-Relation of Vertical Displacement to Number of Wheel Trips for Various Kinds and Percentages of Bitumen. Approximate Percentages of Bitumen by Weight of Mixtures are Shown on Individual Curves.

Table 4.-Stability and rating of mixtures as measured by vertical displacement and by longitudinal displacement

| Mixture identification | Rutting caused by first 5,000 wheel trips |  | Shoving caused by 2,000 wheel trips |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Vertical displacement | Rating | Horizontal displacement | Rating |
| E-31/2 | Inches 0.01 | 1 | Inches |  |
| E-4 | 0.01 .01 | 1 | 0 0 | 1 |
| D-31/2 | . 01 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| D-4 | . 01 | 1 |  | 1 |
| D-41/2 | . 01 | 1 | . 01 | 2 |
| C-31/2 | . 02 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| C-4 | . 02 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| B-31/2 ${ }^{1}$ | . 02 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| E-41/2-- | . 03 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| E-5 | . 03 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| E-51/2 | . 03 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| A-31/2 | . 04 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| C-41/2 | . 05 | 5 | . 14 | 4 |
| B-4 | . 06 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| D-5 | . 08 | 7 | . 04 | 3 |
| A-41 | . 08 | 7 | . 01 | 2 |
| B-41/2 | . 23 | 8 | . 56 | 6 |
| D-51/2 | . 24 | 9 | 1. 20 | 7 |
| C-5 | . 31 | 10 | . 25 | 5 |
| C-51/2 | . 44 | 11 | 2. 16 | 10 |
| A-41/2 | . 67 | 12 | 1.36 | 8 |
| B-5. | . 85 | 13 | 1.68 | 9 |
| A-5 | 1. 31 | 14 | 3. 24 | 11 |
| B-51/2 | 1. 32 | 14 | 8.00 | 12 |
| A $-51 / 2$ | 1.44 | 15 | 11. 00 | 13 |

## ${ }^{1}$ Failed by surface raveling.

The amounts of vertical and longitudinal displacement of the surface, given in table 4 and shown graphically in figures 5 and 6 , give an excellent indication of the relative stability or resistance to plastic flow of the mixtures under moving wheel loads. The untreated


Figure 6.-Relation of Consistency and Percentage of Bitumen to Vertical Displacement After the First 5,000 Wheel Trips.
sand-clay-gravel base ${ }^{1}$ and all of the sections of oilprocessed surface containing up to 4 percent of bituminous material showed a high degree of resistance to

1 No measurements of displacement are given on the untreated base, since no measurable shoving or rutting occurred.


Figure 7.-Relations Between Consistency and Quantity of Bitumen in the 25 Test Mixtures and Their Condition After 5,000 Wheel Trips.
vertical and longitudinal displacement, as did a limited number of the richer mixtures in which the heavier grades of bituminous material were used.
excess of bitumen most detrimental in mixtures con. taining low-viscosity bituminous materials
Purely from a consideration of resistance to internal movement or flow, the data indicate that the effect of adding liquid bituminous material to the aggregate is to reduce its stability. While this reduction in stability is not particularly detrimental until the bitumen content of the mixture reaches a certain critical percentage, the reduction takes place very rapidly after the critical percentage has been exceeded. It is apparent that this critical percentage was not reached for the semisolid material E . The data also indicate that a large loss of stability is caused by a relatively small excess of the light material A, while the more viscous materials permit the use of proportionately higher percentages of bitumen before the critical point is reached.

Figure 7 shows relations between the variables in the 25 mixtures tested. The abscissae are consistencies of the bituminous materials plotted on a logarithmic scale and the ordinates are percentages of bituminous material in the mixtures. The curve connecting the points representing the richest stable mixtures for the respective grades of bituminous material is the approximate upper oiling limit for the materials and conditions of these tests.

The mixtures whose behavior and appearance under the concentrated traffic test showed satisfactory stability were found to have had average vertical displacements of 0.1 inch or less after 5,000 wheel trips. The minimum average vertical displacement for any section was 0.01 inch and the maximum for the $16 \mathrm{sec}-$ tions having satisfactory stability was 0.08 inch. These are the first 16 sections listed in table 4. The remaining nine mixtures showed much greater vertical displacements accompanied by indications of distress such as corrugations and cracks in the surfaces. For these nine sections the average vertical displacement ranged from 0.23 inch to 1.44 inches.

In considering the loss of stability of the aggregate caused by the addition of liquid bituminous material, it is important not to lose sight of the very definite reasons for adding these materials to aggregates in low-cost road construction. The bitumen is added primarily to bond the surface aggregate together into a more or less tough, flexible skin, thus preventing the loss of surfacing material by dusting and raveling and preventing the entrance of surface water into the road structure.

In this connection, it was observed that the untreated gravel base, as well as three of the mixtures containing low percentages of bitumen and having high stability, showed serious loss of material by raveling. The mixtures failing in this way were mixtures $\mathrm{A}-3 \frac{1}{2}, \mathrm{~A}-4$, and $\mathrm{B}-31 / 2$.

Results obtained for the five mixtures containing material B clearly illustrate the effect of variations in quantity of bitumen on the serviceability of the treated surface. Mixture $\mathrm{B}-3 \frac{1}{2}$, as noted, failed by raveling resulting from insufficient bitumen; mixture B-4 was satisfactory ; and mixtures B-41/2, B-5, and B-51/2 showed progressive degrees of rutting, indicating lack of stability caused by overoiling.

The consistency of the bitumen was found to be of more importance than quantity in affecting both the stability and sealing characteristics of the mixtures. Use of the low-viscosity material, A, resulted in no satisfactory mixtures, these mixtures failing either from raveling caused by leanness or by rutting caused by overoiling. Use of the next heavier grade, B, resulted in one satisfactory mixture with 4 percent of bitumen; use of the next grade, C, produced three satisfactory mixtures, namely, those containing $3 \frac{1}{2}, 4$, and $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen; and material D was satisfactory in four percentages, from $31 / 2$ to 5 , inclusive, and showed low stability only in mixture $\mathrm{D}-5 \frac{1}{2}$.

It is evident from the test data that the use of a lowviscosity material requires the imposition of extremely close limits on the permissible bitumen content of the mixture, while the use of more viscous materials allows a much wider variation in bitumen content without sacrificing either stability or wear resistance.

## DENSITY OF MIXTURES AFFECTED BY METHOD OF COMPACTION AND AMOUNT AND CONSISTENCY OF BITUMEN

Determinations of density and percentage of voids were made on all of the mixtures tested. These determinations were made on specimens taken from the track surface after compaction under distributed traffic and also on specimens taken from ruts after the completion of the concentrated traffic tests. In addition, specimens of each mixture were compacted in the Bureau's molding machine ${ }^{2}$ by rolling 1 minute with a load of 200 pounds per linear inch of roller width and 4 additional minutes with a load of approximately 400 pounds per inch of roller width. Densities and percentages of voids were determined on these specimens, as well as on specimens compacted in a 6 -inch cylindrical mold by 100 blows of a 3 -pound mallet. ${ }^{3}$ Table 5 gives the results of the density tests on the mixtures as compacted by the various methods.

[^0]Table 5.-Densities of bituminous mixtures compacted by various methods

${ }^{1}$ All mixtures containing material E were compacted at approximately $150^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. All others were compacted at laboratory temperature.
${ }^{2}$ The voids content of the untreated dry aggregate compacted in a 4 -inch cylindrical mold by vibrating 5 minutes with an electric hammer was 17.5 percent,

The data in table 5 are based on the following relations between mixture voids, aggregate voids, and aggregate and bitumen volumes. For the sake of brevity the following notations are used.
$S=$ the total volume of a specimen of the compacted mixture.
$A=$ the partial volume of the specimen occupied by the aggregate.
$B=$ the partial volume of the specimen occupied by bitumen.
$V=$ the volume of the voids or the partial volume of the specimen occupied by air.
$a=\frac{A}{S} \times 100=$ the percentage of aggregate in the compacted specimen, by volume.
$b=\frac{B}{S} \times 100=$ the percentage of bitumen in the compacted specimen, by volume.
$v_{m}=\frac{V}{S} \times 100=$ the percentage of air in the compacted specimen, by volume.
$v_{a}=$ the percentage of aggregate voids, by volume, in the compacted specimen-space occupied by air and bituminous material.
Then $A+B+V=S$
and $\frac{A}{S} \times 100+\frac{B}{S} \times 100+\frac{V}{S} \times 100=\frac{S}{S} \times 100$
or $a+b+v_{m}=100$
also, $b+v_{m}=v_{a}$
In table 5 the percentage of bitumen by volume is expressed, not as a percentage of the volume of the compacted specimen, but as a percentage of the solid volume (aggregate plus bitumen), or $\frac{B}{A+B} \times 100$. This was done in order to show that the relation of the volume of bitumen to total solid volume was the same for all five sections in any individual track. This percentage, which is designated $b^{\prime}$, may be converted to an expression of the percentage of bitumen by volume of a particular specimen by multiplying it by the ratio of solid volume to total volume, $\frac{\left(100-v_{m}\right)}{100}$, in the specimen under consideration. Then equation (2) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
a+\frac{b^{\prime}\left(100-v_{m}\right)}{100}+v_{m}=100 \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

and equation (3) becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{b^{\prime}\left(100-v_{m}\right)}{100}+v_{m}=v_{a-} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

As an example of the application of equation (5), the percentage of voids, $v_{m}$, for mixture $\mathrm{A}-3 \frac{1}{2}$, table 5 , compacted in the 6 -inch mold was 15.1 percent.

The percentage of bitumen by volume of solids was 9.1. Then from equation (5)

$$
\frac{9.1(100-15.1)}{100}+15.1=v_{a}=22.8
$$

as given in the table.
In table 5 the aggregate voids remaining after each method of compaction and after concentrated traffic are averaged for each bitumen content and grand averages are shown in each group for all five bitumen contents. Comparison of these average void contents indicates that of the three methods of compaction used, the cylinder method using a 3 -pound mallet was least effective, rolling with distributed traffic was most effective, while the molding machine gave densities that were intermediate between those produced by the other two methods. The application of concentrated traffic on the track sections previously compacted under distributed traffic produced an appreciable amount of additional compaction in all of the sections, as indicated by their reduced void contents, and resulted in lower average void contents than were produced by any of the three methods of compaction used in these tests. The average void contents of the sections after testing under concentrated traffic were from 1.7 to 4.1 percent less than those of the same sections after compaction under distributed traffic; they were from 2.2 to 4.8 percent less than the average void contents of the specimens compacted in the roller molding machine; and they were from 7.4 to 12 percent less than the average void contents of the mallet-compacted specimens.
relationship found to exist between stablity of bituminous mortar and stablity of entire mixture
Vibratory compaction tests on the dry aggregate gave a percentage of aggregate voids of 17.5 , or 0.2 percent less than the average of the computed aggregate voids in all of the track sections after the concentrated traffic test. The least dense sample from the track after the concentrated traffic test, exclusive of mixtures containing the semisolid asphalt E, contained 21.5 percent aggregate voids and the most dense had 13.5 percent. It should be noted, therefore, that while the void content of the vibrated dry aggregate checked the average aggregate void content of the track specimens and was lower than that found by any other of the pre-compaction methods tried, it did not give the maximum obtainable compaction as evidenced by the lower aggregate void contents found in 14 of the track sections after the concentrated traffic test. Since the method used to obtain compaction by vibration is susceptible to considerable improvement, it is possible that the dry aggregate might be compacted to void contents comparable to those found in these 14 denser mixtures by an improved method.

Table 5 also shows that the concentrated traffic test, as well as all of the methods of compaction used, generally produced a considerably denser arrangement of the aggregate particles in the light oil mixtures than in those containing the more viscous materials. In the track sections after testing with concentrated traffic, as a typical example, the average computed aggregate voids ranged from 15.2 percent for the A mixtures to 22.4 percent for the E mixtures, or a variation of 7.2 percent resulting from differences in consistency of the bitumens.

The quantity of bitumen was also a factor in causing a marked variation in the density of the aggregates. In the track sections after testing with concentrated
traffic, the $3 \frac{1}{2}$-percent mixtures averaged 20.4 percent aggregate voids. The percentage decreased progressively for increased bitumen contents to an average of 15.7 percent of aggregate voids for the $4 Y_{2}$-percent mixtures and then rose progressively with increased bitumen to an average of 17.6 percent of aggregate voids for the mixtures containing $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen.

Hubbard-Field stability tests were made on the fine portion or mortar from a number of the circular track mixtures and also on a number of additional mortars having intermediate and lower bitumen contents. The materials for these tests were prepared separately by weighing the necessary amounts of crushed gravel and sand passing the no. 10 sieve and the same filler material as was used in the track mixtures. These ingredients, as well as the bitumen, were proportioned to produce mortars having the same grading as the mortars contained in the track mixtures and a slightly greater range of equivalent bitumen contents. The specimens were molded in standard Hubbard-Field molds under a pressure of 3,000 pounds per square inch maintained for 1 minute. They were allowed to cure in air for 24 hours and were then tested at laboratory temperature.

The results of the Hubbard-Field stability tests are shown in figure 8. These curves, together with those shown in figure 6 , indicate that very definite relations exist between the stability of the fine portion or bituminous mortar and the stability of the entire mixture. The mixtures in the track showed loss of stability with increase in bitumen content as shown in figure 6, while the mortars showed a slightly upward trend in stability up to bitumen contents of 7 to 8 percent (approximately equivalent to $3 \frac{1}{2}$ and 4 percent in the track mixtures) and then a very rapid loss of stability for higher bitumen contents. However, with the exception of the $\mathrm{D}-4 \frac{1}{2}$ and $\mathrm{D}-5$ mixtures, the range of equivalent bitumen contents through the zone of rapidly falling stabilities for the mortars corresponds closely to the range of bitumen contents in the track mixtures that showed lowered stability.

## RESULTS OF TESTS ON THE EFFECT OF CONSISTENCY AND

 AMOUNT OF BITUMINOUS MATERIAL SUMMARIZEDThe tests that have been described were made on only one type and grading of aggregate, and therefore the results should not be applied indiscriminately without further research involving other aggregates, and without proper allowance for special conditions to be met. However, it is believed that the results obtained will apply in the same relative way to materials and conditions other than those of the tests. For the combinations of materials studied and the conditions of these tests the following conclusions are indicated:

1. The addition of slow-curing, liquid bituminous material to aggregate of the coarse, dense-graded type reduces its stability or resistance to lateral flow under moving loads.
2. This effect is greatest for bituminous admixtures of low viscosity and tends to become progressively less as the consistency of the bituminous admixture is increased.
3. Loss of stability, as measured by rutting of the circular track under concentrated traffic, is small up to a certain critical bitumen content and increases rapidly as the percentage of bitumen is increased above the critical point.
4. Surfacing mixtures having very low bitumen contents, although possessing relatively high stability, fail to produce well-bonded wearing surfaces, and when the consistency of the bitumen is less than about 300 Saybolt-Furol viscosity at $122^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$, the surface may ravel extensively under the direct action of traffic.
5. The use of bituminous materials having a viscosity of less than approximately 300 in surfacing mixtures with the type and grading of aggregate described necessitates extremely rigid control of the bitumen content. Material B, having a viscosity of 290 , produced satisfactory results in only one proportion ( 4 percent). Mixture B-31/2 raveled, and the mixtures containing $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent or more of material B rutted and shoved excessively.
6. The use of more viscous liquid bituminous materials allows greater leeway in the permissible bitumen content of the mixture. The range of bitumen contents in satisfactory mixtures was from $31 / 2$ to 5 percent for the highly viscous material $D$ and from $3 \frac{1}{2}$ to $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent for material C.

EFFECT OF WATER ON THE STABILITY OF BITUMINOUS MIXTURES INVESTIGATED

Following the investigation of water-free mixtures, a series of tests was conducted to study the effeet of water on the stability and service behavior of similar surfacing materials.

In the first four tests in this series, the surfaces were laid on the same sand-clay-gravel base as was used in the previous studies of water-free mixtures. The bearing power and uniformity of this base was excellent as long as it remained dry or only moderately damp. However, when the base was inundated in order to introduce capillary water into the surfacing mixture, the churning action of traffic caused marked local failures in the base. These failures took the form of widely spaced corrugations and contributed so scriously to the failure of the surfacing course that it was impossible to differentiate between surface failures resulting from weakness of the surfacing mixture and those caused by base failure.

Since these studies were primarily concerned with the qualities of the bituminous wearing coarse, the sand-clay-gravel base was discarded at the end of the fourth test of the series and a crushed-limestone base substituted. In constructing the limestone base the stone was thoroughly compacted and choked with clean sand. $\Lambda$ bonded top was then formed by raking in dry portland cement, which was wetted by introducing water from below and allowed to set without puddling. There resulted a firm, well-bonded surface having sufficient porosity to allow free passage of water to the bituminous wearing course. No further trouble was encountered from base failures even when both base and surfacing course were inundated with water. Tracks 10,11 , and 12 were laid on this base.

Seven tracks were tested in this series-tracks 6 to 12, inclusive. Figures 9 to 13 show diagrammatically the layouts, test procedures, and notations on the behavior of the test sections for tracks 6 to 10 .

Although a few of the wettest surfaces rutted considerably, other more characteristic types of failure were observed on many of the wet sections. Such evidences of failure were corrugations, surface cracking, and surface peeling followed by rapid pot holing or local raveling.


Figure 8.-Relations Between Bitumen Content anir Hubbard-Field Stability of Mortars Made by Adding; Bituminous Material to the Fine Portion of the Circular Track Aggregate.

As shown in figure 9, track 6 was laid in five sections, each section containing 4 percent of bitumen and each having one of the five grades of bitumen used in the previous investigation of water-free mixtures. Each section was further subdivided into two subsections, one being laid without water in the mixture and one having 2 percent of water added to the aggregate before the bitumen was applied. After compaction of the surfacing mixtures on the dry base, water was admitted to the base and the water level maintained at 9 inches below the track surface during the first 50,000 wheel trips of concentrated traffic and at $4 \frac{1}{2}$ inches below the surface during the last 25,000 wheel trips.
Comparison of the observed behavior of the test sections in this track clearly indicated the superiority of the mixtures containing the highly viscous to semisolid bituminous materials over the mixtures containing lighter materials in resisting the detrimental effects of water.

Although, as previously mentioned, it was difficult to distinguish between failures resulting from surface weakness and those caused by base settlement, it was observed that the sections having low viscosity bitumen in the surfacing mixtures failed earlier and to a greater extent than did those having the highly viscous to semisolid bituminous materials. Figure 9 shows the relation of time of occurrence and observed extent of failure to the amount of traffic applied. The surface on section A, where the lightest bitumen was used, raveled during and immediately following compaction and, in the early stages of the test, developed considerable corrugation. After 50,000 wheel trips of concentrated traffic, it was badly rutted in the originally dry half and somewhat less badly rutted in the half laid with 2 percent of water. Part of this rutting was undoubtedly caused by base failure, but, regardless of whether or not this was the


Figure 9.-Effect of Water on the Behavior of Mixtures Containing 4 Percent of the Various Bituminous Materials.
case, the condition of section A after the 50,000 wheel trips was clearly worse than that of any other section with the possible exception of section B in which the next heavier grade of bitumen was used.

While showing no noticeable raveling, section B developed cracks in the originally dry half and corrugations in both halves early in the test and rutted somewhat less than did section A during the 50,000 wheel trips before the water level was raised in the base.
Sections C and D, in which the two next heavier grades of bitumen were used, showed no evidence of failure until after 12,000 wheel trips of concentrated traffic had been applied, and from then until the completion of 50,000 wheel trips developed only slight cracks in the originally dry sections and a moderate amount of rutting throughout.
Section E, which contained the semisolid bituminous material, showed no evidence of failure except slight cracking in the originally dry half up to 50,000 wheel trips.
Since quantitative measurement of the rutting in track 6 was impractical because of the longitudinal irregularity of the ruts, comparison cannot be made between the performance of this track and track 2 in which the 4 -percent, water-free mixtures were tested (see table 4). However, it was observed that the principal difference between these two tracks was a greater tendency on the part of track 6 to corrugate in the sections having bitumen of low viscosity, and a tendency for all sections to develop cracking. This cracking, as well as a general rutting and increased roughness, became extremely noticeable on all sections of track 6 after the water level was raised to within $4 \frac{1}{2}$ inches of the top of the curbs at 50,000 wheel trips. During the ensuing 25,000 wheel trips the ruts and corrugations developed rapidly in all the sections. In some places the additional displacement amounted to one-half inch or more without, however, materially changing the thickness of the surface course in the bottoms of the ruts. In other words, the additional and comparatively rapid rutting and corrugating were largely the result of base failure caused by the higher water level.

WET MIXTURES ON DRY BASES 'IEND TO DIRY OUT AND REGAIN STABLLITY
Tracks 7 and 8, data for which are shown in figures 10 and 11, were identical as to grade and quantity of
bitumen and base conditions. Both contained 4 percent of material C in all sections and were laid and tested on a dry base. Both tracks were divided into five sections that varied only in the amount of water added to the aggregates before mixing with bitumen. One section in each was surfaced with a mixture prepared with air-dried aggregate containing about 0.4 percent of water but to which no water had been added. In the remaining four sections of each track, the respective mixtures were prepared from aggregates to which $2,3,4$, and 6 percent of water had been added.

The wet sections in track 7 after compaction contained considerably less water than the amount which had been added to the aggregates. In fact, only two of them contained over 2 percent of moisture when the traffic test was started: Of these two, the section containing 2.8 percent of residual moisture developed some alligator cracks under traffic, and the section containing 5 percent of water rutted appreciably, indicating considerable loss of stability, and it also developed alligator cracks.

The section that was laid dry and the two wet sections in which the moisture content had fallen to 2 percent or less during laying and compacting showed no evidence of failure at the end of the test. The test on track 7 was concluded at 15,000 wheel trips.

Track 8 was identical with track 7 except that mixing and laying operations were speeded up somewhat to reduce the loss of water from the wet mixtures. Only 1,000 wheel trips of compacting traffic were applied so that compaction was completed and test traffic started within 4 hours after the surfacing material was laid. During both compacting and early testing the surfaces of all the sections were lightly sprinkled at intervals to retard the loss of moisture by evaporation. The actual moisture contents of the sections containing 2 percent and 3 percent of water were reasonably close to the designed contents, but the sections originally containing 4 percent and 6 percent of water actually contained only 3.4 and 4.4 percent, respectively, when testing was started. Rutting occurred only in the wettest section, as was the case in track 7. The rutting in the section originally containing 6 percent of water began as soon as concentrated traffic was started and had virtually reached its maximum at 1,000 wheel trips. After the sprinkling was discontinued (at 10,000 wheel trips of test traffic)

| TRACK NO. 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 PERCENT OF MATERIAL C IN ALL MIXTURES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $2 \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 \mathrm{NCH}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10-1NCH SAND-CLAY-GRAVEL BASE COURSE $\longrightarrow$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CONDITIONS OF THE TEST BEHAVIOR OF TEST SECTIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OPERATION | BASE CONDITION | time | NUMBER OF WHEEL TRIPS |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMPACTING (DISTRIBUTED TRAFFIC) | DRY | 4 DAYS | $3,500$ | GOOD CONDITION WATER 0.4 PERCENT - | GOOD CONDITION WATER 1.3 PERCENT 1 | GOOD CONDITION WATER 2.0 PERCENT 1 | CRACKED EXTENSIVELY <br> WATER 2.8 PERCENT ${ }^{-1]}$ | CRACKEO EXTENSIVELY WATER 5.0 PERCENT |
| TESTING (CONCENTRATEO TRAFFIC) | ORY | 5 DAYS | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 100 |  |  |  |  | RUTTING |
|  |  |  | 5,000 |  |  |  |  | WATER 2.6 PERCENT |
|  |  |  | 15,000 | NO EVIDENCE OF FAILURE WATER 0.4 PERCENT | NO EVIDENCE OF FAILURE WATER I.I PERCENT | NO EVIDENCE OF FAILURE WATER 1.6 PERCENT | EXTENSIVE CRACKS WATER I. 9 PERCENT | EXTENSIVE CRACKS no additional rutting WATER 2.6 PERCENT |

1/WATER CONTENT DETERMINED ON LOOSE MATERIAL BEFORE APPLYING TRAPFIG
Figure 10.-Effect of Various Amounts of Water on the Behavior of Mixtures Containing 4 Percent of Material C.

TRACK NO. 8



Figure 11.-Effect of Various Amounts of Water on the Behavior of Mixtures Containing 4 Percent of Material (
The Sections Were Sprinkled to Retard Loss of Moisture by Evaporation.
the mixtures lost moisture so rapidly that at 29,000 wheel trips of test traffic none of them contained as much as 2 percent of water. At 44,000 wheel trips of test traffic, when the test was discontinued, the sections originally having 3,4 , and 6 percent of water showed a slight tendency to scale or peel, and the dry section had developed some longitudinal surface cracks, due probably to the light sprinkling. No indication of failure was evident in the section that originally contained 2 percent of water.
Track 9 (see fig. 12) was similar to tracks 7 and 8 except that $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of material C was used in the mixtures instead of 4 percent. Mixing and laying operations were further hastened to avoid, as much as possible, loss of moisture from the mixtures. The number of trips for compaction was reduced to 300 , and compaction was finished and testing started within 2 hours after the mixtures were laid. This track was not sprinkled.

The compacted mixtures had water contents from 0.3 percent to 1 percent below the original water contents. Again, the only wet section showing reduced stability by rutting was that laid with 6 percent of water and containing 5 percent when testing with concentrated traffic was started. Rutting and corrugation developed so rapidly in this section that it had to
be replaced at 1,000 wheel trips of test traffic with a more stable material in order to continue the test on the other sections. The highest moisture content in any of the other sections when testing was started was 3.1 percent. The dry section showed very slight rutting, the amount corresponding closely to that recorded for the same mixture in the tests on water-free mixtures. The failure of the wet sections containing from 1.7 percent to 3.1 percent of water to rut at all, whereas the dry section showed a normal amount of rutting, is attributed to a peculiarity of such mixtures which was observed throughout this series of test, namely, that the addition of a small amount of water (generally less than 3 percent) appeared to make the mixture harsh and hard to compact.

Low stability is a characteristic of oily, easily compacted mixtures or of mixtures that have been compacted to such an extent that virtually all their void spaces are filled with liquid. It follows, therefore, that if a small amount of water causes harshness in the mixture and thereby retards compaction, the mixtures, although having low stability when thoroughly compacted, may show a temporary stability somewhat higher than normal during the comparatively long period of traffic application necessary to bring them to their ultimate density.

TRACK NO: 9
$4 \frac{1}{2}$ PERCENT OF MATERIAL C IN ALL MIXTURES

| IO-INCH SAND-CLAY-GRAVEL BASE COURSE - |  |  |  | NO WATER <br> 2 PERCENT WATER <br> 3 PERCENT WATER <br> 4 PERCENT WATER <br> 6 PERCENT WATER |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 000 | - 000 | $\therefore \square^{4}$ |  |  |
| CONDITIONS OF THE TEST |  |  |  | BEHAVIOR OF TEST SECTIONS |  |  |  |  |
| OPERATION | BASE CONDITION | TIME | NUMBER OF WHEEL. TRIPS |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMPACTING DISTRIBUTED TRAFFIC) | DRY | 2 HOURS | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ 300 \end{gathered}$ | GOOD CONOITION. WATERO. 2 PERCENT I | GOOD CONDITION. <br> WATER 1.7 PERCENT + | GOOD CONDITION. WATER 2.3 PERCENT I/ | GOOD CONDITION. WATER 3.1 PERCENT is | MOVED NOTICEABLY UNDER WHEELS. WATER 5.0 PERCENT I 1 |
| TESTING (CONCENTRATED TRAFFIC) | ORY | $1 \frac{1}{2}$ DAYS | 0 |  |  |  |  | RUTTING IMMEDIATELY AND LONGITUDINAL CRACKS |
|  |  |  | 1,000 |  |  |  |  | WATER 4 PERCENT. BADLY RUTTED. DISCONTINUED |
|  |  |  | 2.100 | WATERO. 2 PERCENT | WATER 1.4 PERCENT | WATER 1.6 PERCENT | WATER 2.7 PERCENT |  |
|  |  |  | 5,000 | SOME RUTTING |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 7,800 | RUTTED $\frac{1}{4}$ [ $\mathrm{NCH}^{3}$ | NO RUTTING | NO RUTTING | NO RIJTTING |  |

1) WATER CONTENT DETERMINED ON LOOSE MATERIAL BEFORE APPLYING TRAFFIC.
2) MAXIMUM DEPTH OF RUT AT ANY POINT.

Figure 12.-Effect of Various Amounts of Water on the Behavior of Mixtures Containing $41 / 2$ Percent of Material C.
mixtures with high bitumen contents absorbed least water from base course

Track 10 (see fig. 13) consisted of five sections, all containing material $C$ but in amounts varying by increments of one-half percent from $3 \frac{1}{2}$ to $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen. The mixtures were laid without the addition of water and the base was kept dry during compaction of the surfacing mixtures. After the sections were compacted by 3,000 wheel trips, 4,000 additional wheel trips of distributed traffic were applied with the base flooded to within one-fourth inch of the bottom of the bituminous mat.

None of the sections showed any indication of failure except that the sections containing 5 and $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen showed a normal low stability resulting from their high bitumen contents. The water was then raised to within $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches of the top of the bituminous mat and 1,700 additional wheel trips were applied, making a total of 5,700 wheel trips of distributed traffic. The mixtures were then tested for water content. The results of these tests are shown in figure 13 opposite the first entry of 5,700 wheel trips.

At that time the sections containing $3 \frac{1}{2}, 4$, and $41 / 2$ percent of bitumen were still in good condition, but the section containing 5 percent was badly cracked and the section containing $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent was rubbery and unstable. The water level was again raised, this time to within one-fourth inch of the top of the bituminous mat, and maintained there without additional traffic for 18 hours or three-fourths of a day. The sections were again tested for water content and the results are shown in figure 13 opposite the second entry of 5,700 wheel trips. All of these tests of water content were made only on the top inch of the mixtures.

The first test of water content indicated that capillarity and the action of traffic had caused some water to rise above the free water level into the top half of the bituminous mixtures. As shown in figure 13, the amounts ranged from 0.5 percent for the mixture containing $3 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen to 2.1 percent for the mixture with $4 \frac{1}{12}$ percent of bitumen, and then downward to 0.7 percent for the mixture with $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen.

During the is hour's when the water level was within one-fourth inch of the top of the bituminous mat and no traffic was being applied, upward percolation caused the water content in the top inch of the mixtures having
$31 / 2$ and 4 percent of bitumen to increase to 2 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. No increase in water content occurred in the top inch of the other three sections having $4 \frac{1}{2}, 5$, and $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen. On the contrary there was a very slight decrease, which probably was the result of the inability of the water to percolate upward through these richer and, by then, well-compacted mixtures fast enough to offset the losses by surface evaporation.

The water level was next lowered to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches below the top of the mat and maintained at this level during the application of 3,300 additional wheel trips of distributed traffic. This brought the total of all distributed test traffic on this track up to 9,000 wheel trips. At 9,000 wheel trips the water content was determined both at the top and bottom of each section. The results are shown in figure 13.

In the top inch, the mixtures having $3 \frac{1}{2}$ and 4 percent of bitumen showed additional gains in water content of 0.6 and 0.4 percent, respectively. The mixture with $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen showed no change in water content and those with 5 and $51 / 2$ percent of bitumen showed additional losses of 0.1 and 0.3 percent, respectively. The bottom inch of each section contained a considerably higher percentage of water than did the top inch. In both the top and bottom inch, comparing the various sections, the water content decreased progressively with higher bitumen contents. At this time the sections containing $3 \frac{1}{2}, 4$, and $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen were in good condition and those containing 5 and $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen both showed alligator cracking and were wavy and highly plastic.

In the final phase of the test, the water level was lowered to the bottom of the bituminous mat and concentrated traffic was applied. The mixtures having 5 and $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen failed immediately under this type of traffic and after 500 wheel trips were replaced with other material to allow completion of the test on the remaining sections.

It is of interest in connection with the failure of these two sections that when they began to rut, the surface cracks opened up and after about 200 wheel trips a considerable quantity of mud was ejected through them. This mud, although appearing from its color and texture to contain no bitumen, proved upon analysis to contain 8.9 percent of bitumen on the basis of its water-free weight. Its water content was 25 percent. The bitumen in this ejected material had

TRACK NO. 10
MATERIAL C IN ALL SECTIONS. NO WATER ADDED TO MIXTURES


| OPERATION | BASE CONDITION | TIME | NUMBER OF WHEEL TRIPS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COMPACTING <br> (DISTRIBUTED <br> TRAFFIC) | DRY | $2 \frac{1}{2}$ DAYS | $\begin{gathered} 0 \\ 3,000 \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { TESTING } \\ & \text { (OISTRIBUTED } \\ & \text { TRAFFIC) } \end{aligned}$ | WET. WATER $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH BELOW BITUMINOUS COURSE | 3 DAYS | 0 |  |  |  | GOOD CONDITION | GOOD CONDITION |
|  |  |  | 4,000 | GOOD CONOITION | GOOD CONDITION | GOOD CONDITION | MOVED SLIGHTLY UNDER WHEELS | MOVED CONSIDERABLY UNDER WHEELS |
|  | WET. <br> WATER $1 \frac{1}{2}$ INCH BELOW TOP OF BITUMINOUS course | 3 DAYS | 5,700 | WATER, TOP, 0.5 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 0.6 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 2.1 PERCENT | CRACKED EXTENSIVELY WATER, TOP, 1.1 PERCENT | RUBBERY, UNSTABLE WATER, TOP, O. 7 PERCENT |
|  |  |  | 5,700 ل | WATER, TOP, 2.0 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 1.5 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 1.8 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 0.9 PERCENT | WATER, TOP, 0.6 PERCENT |
|  |  |  | 9,000 | PEELING AND PITTING WATER, TOP, 2.6 PERCENT BOTTOM, 5.3 PERCENT | peeling and pitting WATER, TOP, 1.9 PERCENT BOTTOM, 3.9 PERCENT | SLIGHT PEELING \& PITTING WATER, TOP, 1.8 PERCENT BOTTOM, 3.0 PERCENT | CRACKED EXTENSIVELY WAVY, UNSTABLE WATER, TOP, 0.8 PERCENT BOT TOM, 2.4 PERCENT | CRACKEO EXTENSIVELY WAVY, UNSTABLE <br> WATER, TOP, O. 3 PERCENT BOTTOM,2.1 PERCENT |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { TESTING } \\ & \text { (CONCENTRAT- } \\ & \text { ED TRAFFIC) } \end{aligned}$ | WET. <br> WATER IN CONTACT WITH BOTTOM OF BITUMINOUS COURSE | 5 DAYS | 0 |  |  |  | RUTTED IMMEDIATELY |  |
|  |  |  | 200 |  |  |  | MUD EJECTED <br> THROUGH CRACKS $3^{3 /}$ | MUD EJECTED THROUGH CRACKS AND AT CURB ? |
|  |  |  | 500 | CRACKS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP |  |  | discontinued | DISCONTINUED |
|  |  |  | 1,500 |  | CRACKED EXTENSIVELY | CRACKED EXTENSIVELY |  |  |
|  |  |  | 3,700 | CRACKEO EXTENSIVELY | MUD EJECTED ${ }^{\text {a/ }}$ |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 6,800 | MUD EJECTED - / |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 8,000 |  |  | MUD EJECTED ? ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  |
|  |  |  | 8,000 | TEST STOPPED. SECTIONS | ADLY POT-HOLED AND RA | aveled |  |  |

 ANO SHOWED THE CHANGES INDICATED. WATER LEVEL THEN RETURNED TO $1 \frac{1}{2}$ INCHES BELOW TOP OF BITUMINOUS COURSE. 2) THIS MUD CONTAINED 25 PERCENT WATER AND OF THE WATER-FREE MATERIAL 8.9 PERCENT WAS BITUMINOUS MATERIAL.

Figure 13.-Effect of Water and Bitumen Content on the Behavior of Mixtures Containing Various Percentages or Material C.
apparently been completely emulsified by the action of traffic on the water-soaked surfacing mixture.

Figure 14, which shows the section containing 5 percent of material C after 500 wheel trips of concentrated traffic, illustrates the condition of this section and the section containing $5 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of material C when they were discarded.

The sections with $31 / 2,4$, and $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen developed surface cracks at 500 wheel trips and some mud was ejected through the cracks in all three sections before the conclusion of the test. The section having $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of bitumen was the last of the five to eject the mud and oil emulsion and was apparently least affected by the action of moisture. The test was concluded at 8,000 wheel trips.

The water conditions for track 10 were purposely made extremely severe in order to accelerate the test and to show, as clearly as possible, the comparative differences in behavior of the sections. The tests indicated that the susceptibility of these mixtures to damage from excessive moisture increased as their bitumen contents were increased above $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent. This is evidenced both by the shorter time required to produce failure of the rich sections compared with the lean ones, and by the greater extent of the failure in the rich sections for a given amount of traffic.

## ADDING WATER TO AGGREGATE FOUND LESS DETRIMENTAL THAN ADDING WATER TO OILED MIXTURE

Comparison of the results of the tests on track 10 with those on tracks 7,8 , and 9 , in which water was contained in the mixtures but not in the base, indicates that water in the base structure is a more serious cause of failure than moisture in the surfacing mixtures when the base is dry. This is due to the fact that a wet base tends to maintain the surfacing mixture in a wet, unstable, and generally weakened condition for as long


Figure 14.-Section of Track No. 10 Containing 5 Percent of Material C, After 9,000 Wheel Trips of Distributed Traffic and 500 Wheel Trips of Concentrated Traffic. Mud was Ejected from the Spots Marked "A".
a time as drainage conditions remain unsatisfactory; whereas, if the base is well drained and dry, a wet mixture placed on top of it will, under favorable weather conditions, dry out and become stable in a comparatively short time. It should be noted, however, that in
several instances test mixtures which contained more than $2 \frac{1}{2}$ to 3 percent of moisture when the test traffic was started, even when the base course was dry, developed alligator cracks which failed to heal after the mixtures had partially dried. It was observed that cracks, once formed, persisted until the surface was broken up and remixed.

Tracks 11 and 12 were designed to show the effect of (a) water contained in the aggregate at the time of applying the bitumen, and (b) water incorporated in the mixture after oiling but before compacting. Each of these two tracks was divided into six sections, three of which were surfaced with muxtures containing $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of material B and the other three with mixtures containing $4 \frac{1}{2}$ percent of material D. In track 11 water was added to the aggregate 24 hours before applying the bitumen, and in track 12 water was added and mixed into the oiled aggregate 24 hours before the track was laid and compacted. In both tracks the percentages of water used were, on the basis of the weight of the dry aggregate, 2,4 , and 6 percent for the $B$ and also for the D bituminous mixtures.

These two tracks were each given only 300 wheel trips of distributed traffic for compaction, due to the extremely low stability of the mixtures with material B containing 6 percent of water. Further compaction of these mixtures would have resulted in pushing a large part of the material out of the track and over the curb. Two of the mixtures containing material B , that having 6 percent of water added to the aggregate (track 11) and that having 6 percent of water added to the mixture (track 12), failed completely within the first 600 wheel trips of concentrated traffic and had to be replaced with more stable material before the tests could be continued on the other sections. All but two of the sections showed average vertical displacements in excess of 0.1 inch at 5,000 wheel trips, which would cause them to be classified as unsatisfactory according to the procedure followed in the classification of the water-free mixtures previously discussed in this report. The two exceptions were the mixtures with material D containing 2 and 4 percent water added to the aggregates.

The average vertical displacements at 5,000 wheel trips for the mixtures in tracks 11 and 12 are given in table 6. Comparison of these data with the data given
Table 6.-Average vertical displacement of bituminous mixtures after 5,000 wheel trips

$$
\text { [Tracks } 11 \text { and } 12 ; 43 / 2 \text { percent of bitumen in all sections] }
$$

| Track no. | $\underset{\text { terial }}{\text { Ma- }}$ | Water |  | Average vertical displacement at 5,000 wheels trips |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Percent | Added to- |  |
| 11. | 3 | 2 | Aggregate. | Inches $0.29$ |
| 11. | B | 4 | .-.--do.. |  |
| 11. | B | 6 | Oiled mixture | ${ }^{(1)}$ |
| 12 | B | 4 | Oiled mixture |  |
| 12 | B | 6 | --...-do... |  |
| 11 | D | 2 | Aggregate.- | . 10 |
| 11. | D |  | -----do.. | . 10 |
| 11 | D | 6 |  | ${ }^{2} 1.02$ |
| 12. | D | 2 | Oiled mixture | . 17 |
| 12 | D | 4 | -----do... | . 50 |
| 12. | D | 6 | -...-do. | . 58 |

[^1]in table 4 for the water-free mixtures clearly shows the effect of water in lowering the stability of these bituminous mixtures.

The test results indicated that, in general, a greater loss of stability took place in the mixtures in which water was added to the oiled aggregate than in those in which the water was added to the aggregate before the bitumen was applied. The results also corroborated the other test data which pointed to a definite superiority of the more viscous materials over those of low viscosity in resisting the effect of water.

In considering the results of the tests on wet mixtures it should be pointed out that the mineral filler used in these mixtures, while not an ideal filler material, was considerably better in quality than much of the soil that has often been used as filler in low-cost road surfaces. It is believed that had a clay filler containing more colloidal material been used, the detrimental effect of water on the mixtures tested would have been more striking.

## test results on wet mixtures summarized

1. Although water in the mixtures caused cracking in the lean sections as well as in the rich ones, the lean mixtures showed very little loss of stability due to the addition of water while the richer mixtures showed a marked loss of stability from this cause.
2. Both dry and wet mixtures tested on wet bases lost stability more rapidly and were ultimately much less stable when the bitumen content was high than when it was low.
3. The rich mixtures did not absorb as much water from the wet bases as did the lean ones but this did not prevent their loss of stability since less additional liquid was required to affect them.
4. The mixtures containing bitumens of low viscosity lost stability more rapidly and to a greater degree, due to the action of water, than did those containing the heavier materials.
5. Cracking, pitting, and corrugating comprised the typical failures on the wet sections, and in addition, rutting occurred in the wet sections containing the higher percentages of bituminous material.
6. Surfaces that cracked while wet failed to heal after drying. The cracks persisted until the surfacing mixtures were broken up, remixed, and relaid.
7. Loss of stability occurred both in the wet mixtures on dry bases and in the mixtures that were tested on wet bases. However, while the former tended to dry out rapidly and regain their stability, the condition of the latter continued to grow steadily worse with the application of additional traffic.
8. Water added to the oiled aggregate mixtures caused, in general, a somewhat greater loss of stability than did water added to the aggregate before oiling. The reverse, however, was true of the wettest mixtures (those containing 6 percent of water).
9. The tests appear to justify the provision in numerous present-day specifications that limits the amount of moisture permitted in oil-processed surfacing mixtures to 2 percent at the time of laying. Such a provision seems desirable in order to insure against surface cracks which, once formed, fail to heal even after the moisture in the surface has evaporated.

# INDEXES OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION COSTS 

## REPORTED BY THE DIVISION OF MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

THE purchasing power of funds expended for highway construction, when expressed in miles of highway annually placed under construction, shows variations from year to year because of (1) actual variations in the cost of materials and labor entering into such construction, and (2) changes in design features, types, and quantities of materials actually used.

The effect of lowered prices of constituent units is immediately reflected in a downward trend in costs per mile whenever the quantities of materials used and labor required are subject to only minor variations. However, changing traffic conditions have required wider surfaces, longer sight distances, flatter curves, and other features conducive to safety with increased speed. Consequently, the effects of lower unit prices during recent years have been largely offset by the increased quantities of materials and excavation actually used, and average costs per mile have not fluctuated in accordance with fluctuations in the unit price of materials.

As a normal consequence of constantly increasing traffic on our highways, highway construction is continually undergoing changes, both in design and in materials used, and these changes have tended to complicate the development of simple index figures. To meet this condition three sets of index figures have been prepared.

1. A price trend index, based on the varying unit costs of a composite mile composed of the same quantities and materials for each year.
2. A usage trend index that shows the variations in quantities of excavation, surfacing, and structures actually placed in the composite mile constructed each year.
3. $\Lambda$ cost trend index, that is based on the actual cost of the composite mile constructed each year.

Data for the Federal fiscal years 1925 to 1929 were taken as a basis for the calculations. The variations in price trend for the years 1922 to 1935 for the major components as well as for the composite mile are shown in figure 1.

Price, cost, and usage trend indexes are shown in figure 2 for the period 1923 to 1934. The effects of price and usage are combined to produce a cost trend for the composite mile. The cost trend follows a more uniform course than does either the usage or the price trend.
cost trend obtained by combining price trend and usage TREND FOR COMPOSITE MILE OF HIGHWAY

The data covering materials, quantities, and unit costs were collected by the Bureau of Public Roads from the prices shown in the contracts awarded for road construction financed in whole or in part from Federal funds allotted to the States for construction on the Federal-aid highway system. Samples were taken from work financed wholly with State funds and it was found that Federal-aid and State projects were built to about the same standard.


Figure 1.-Price Trend in Highway Construction. Averages for 1925 to 1929 Taken as a Base.
Careful consideration of the available data led to the conclusion that a satisfactory usage index could be obtained if a composite mile of surfacing representative of the types of construction in Federal-aid and State annual programs were used. Accordingly, the component types of surfacing entering into the composite mile were taken from records of the combined highway mileages built annually, and the correlated items (grading, structural concrete, and steel) were based on the records available from construction with Federal funds. The propriety of the above procedure is assured by the fact that governing specifications are the same for both Federal-aid and wholly State construction, and that design and supervision of construction are performed by the State highway departments.

In building highways throughout the country the engineer must take into account wide differences in soils, availability and quality of materials, temperature, rainfall, traffic, and other factors, with a resulting wide range in construction practice. Many materials are important locally, but are of little significance to the country as a whole. Therefore, in the interest of simplifying reduction of data the following general items were selected as a basis for the indexes.

From Bureau of Public Roads records of bid prices:
Excavation-
Common.
Unclassified.
Rock.


Figure 2.-Indexes of Highway Construction Cost. Averages for 1925 to 1929 Taken as a Base. Price Index Shows Trend in Cost of Composite Mile Composed of Same Quantities of Excavation, Surfacing, and Structures in Each Year. Usage Index Shows Trend in Quantities of Excavation, Surfacing, and Structures Used Per Mile in Each Year. Cost Index, Taking Account of Usage, Shows Trend in Actual Cost Per Mile.

## Structures-

Reinforcing steel.
Structural steel.
Structural concrete, class A.
Structural concrete, class B.
Structural concrete, class C.
From records of mileage of State highways constructed:

Gravel and sand-clay.
Macadam.
Bituminous macadam.
Bituminous concrete.
Portland-cement concrete.
Brick.
These items cover somewhat more than 90 percent of the total cost of highway construction. Therefore, though their number is not great, they appear to be adequate. The items not used involve about the same basic commodities, manufacturing processes, transportation problems, and the same classes of labor that were
involved in the items used. To include them would complicate the calculations but probably would neither clarify nor improve the result.

These representative items were accumulated and weighted, and further consolidated into three general groups-excavation, surfacing, and structures. The general group of excavation includes the three types of excavation, common, rock, and unclassified, and in addition includes the low-type surfaces such as topsoil, sand-clay, gravel, and treated and untreated macadam. These low-type surfaces have a low materials cost, generate little freight, and in construction methods and nature of equipment used are similar to grading operations, and so may be readily converted into the general group of excavation. In a similar manner the rigid types of surfacing have been converted into equivalent concrete pavement. Structures, which include bridges, culverts, railroad grade crossings, and safety devices, were reduced to three items: Reinforcing steel, structural steel, and structural concrete. The resulting final quantities per surfaced mile are shown in table 1.

Table 1.-Final quantities per surfaced mile

| Year | Excavation |  |  |  | Surfacing |  |  |  |  | Structures |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Excavation | Gravel ${ }^{\text {I }}$ | Waterbound macad$a m^{2}$ | Total excavation | Bitumi- <br> nous macadam | Bitumi- <br> nous concrete ${ }^{3}$ | Brick 4 | Portlandcement concrete | Total surfacing | Reinforcing steel | Structural steel | Structural concrete |
| 1923 | Cubic yards 8,068 | Cubic yards 3, 846 | Cubic yards | Cubic yards 12916 | Square yards | Square yards | Sguare yards | Square yards | Square yards | Pounds | Pounds | Cubic yards |
| 1924 | 8,364 | 3,792 | 1,237 | 13, 393 | 391 | 351 | 137 | 2,960 | 3,839 | 12,374 | 2,258 | 67 |
| 1925 | 9,238 | 4,116 | 945 | 14,299 | 385 | 284 | 120 | 2,978 | 3,767 | 13, 581 | 4,718 | 64 |
| 1926 | 11,068 | 4,695 | 837 | 16, 600 | 405 | 215 | 103 | 2,452 | 3, 175 | 14, 070 | 3,629 | 68 |
| 1927 | 10,960 | 4,310 | 1, 329 | 16, 599 | 400 | 237 | 53 | 2,850 | 3,540 | 12,773 | 3,301 | 64 |
| 1928 | 12,545 | 4,050 | 1.757 | 17,352 | 692 | 273 | 86 | 3,297 | 4,348 | 17, 075 | 4,953 | 65 |
| 1930 | 17, 028 | 4,548 | 1, 029 | 22, 605 | 350 | 213 | 62 | 3,173 | 3,798 | 22, 503 | 5, 024 | 81 |
| 19:31 | 18,946 22,361 | 4,426 | 797 | 24, 169 | 345 | 247 | 92 | 3,640 | 4,324 | 26,852 | 7,750 | 122 |
| 1932 | 18,423 | 4,874 | 692 | 23,989 | 429 | 218 | 76 | 3, 332 | 4,055 | 29, 243 | 10, 807 | 141 |
| 1933 | 21,451 | 5,017 | 908 | 27, 386 | 561 | 492 | 81 | 2, 609 | 3,743 | 32, 131 | 19, 249 | 153 |
| 1934 | 28, 270 | 6,163 | 684 | 35,117 | 515 | 508 | 42 | 1,360 | 2, 425 | 29,963 | 21,733 | 158 |

[^2]Base quantities and base prices (1925 to 1929) are shown in table 2. The base quantities and prices are the arithmetical averages of the quantities and prices by years for the base period.

Table 2.-Average quantities and prices for the years 1925 to 19:2, used as a base for computation of indexes

| Year | Excavation |  | Surfacing |  | Reinforcing steel |  | Structural steel |  | Structural concrete |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { E } \\ & \text { d } \\ & \text { व̈ } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | 第 |  |
| 1925 | $\begin{gathered} C u . \\ y d . \\ 14,299 \end{gathered}$ | *0. 386 | Sq. 3. 767 |  | Lb. |  | Lb. |  | $\mathrm{Cu}$ $y d .$ |  |
| 1926 | 16, 600 | . 364 | 3, 175 | 2. 286 | 14, 070 | + 05054 | 4, ${ }^{4,629}$ | \$0.0736 |  | \$22. 760 |
| 1927 | 16,599 | . 352 | 3, 540 | 2. 291 | 12,773 | . 0510 | 3, 301 . | . 0707 | 64 | 22. 647 |
| 1928 | 17,352 | . 337 | 4, 348 | 2. 096 | 17,075 | . 0492 | 4,953 | . 0671 | 65 | 21. 216 |
| 1929 | 22, 605 | . 316 | 3,798 | 2. 055 | 22, 503 | . 0481 | 5,024 | . 0591 | 81 | 21.582 |
| Total | 87, 455 | 1.755 | 18,628 | 11.088 | 80,002 | . 2582 |  |  |  |  |
| Average | 17, 491 | . 351 | 3,726 | 2. 218 | 16,000 | . 0516 | 4, 325 | . 0674 | 68 | 22.148 |

The price index.-The method of computing the price index is shown in table 3. The composite mile on which the price index is based is composed of the
average quantities of excavation, surfacing, and structures as determined for the base period 1925 to 1929. The average bid price for each of these items is shown for the years 1922 to 1935. The figures given in the amount columns are the costs of the average quantities at the prevailing rate for the year or quarter. The index figures give a comparison between the year or quarter and the base period 1925 to 1929. The results given in this table are shown in graphical form in figure 1.

The usage index.-The usage index shows the effect of changing practices in design features and use of materials in the highway-construction field. It is obtained by applying the average prices as determined for the base period to the various quantities of the base items used. The result shows how the cost would have varied because of changing usage had the unit prices remained constant. These changes in construction practices are shown in tabular form in table 4, and graphically by the usage trend in figure 2 .

The cost index.-The cost index is obtained by combining the average annual quantities used, as shown in table 4 , with the average annual unit prices that they cost. This index is shown in tabular form in table 5 and graphically by the cost trend in figure 2.

Table 3.-Price trend in highway construction


[^3]Table 4．－Usage trend in highway construction

| Year | Excavation ${ }^{1}$（ $\$ 0.351$ per cubic yard） |  |  | Surfacing ${ }^{2}$（\＄2．218 per square yard） |  |  | Structures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Composite mile |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Reinforcing steel （ $\$ 0.0516$ per pound） | Structural steel <br> （ $\$ 0.0674$ per pound） |  | Structural con－ crete（ $\$ 22.148$ per cubic yard） |  | Combined |  |  |  |
|  | Quan－ tity | Amount | Sub－ index |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Quan- } \\ & \text { tity } \end{aligned}$ | Amount | Sub－ index | Quan- tity | Amount | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Quan- } \\ & \text { tity } \end{aligned}$ | Amount | $\begin{gathered} \text { Quan- } \\ \text { tity } \end{gathered}$ | A mount | Amount | Sub－ index | Total amount | Index |
| Base period， 1925 to 1929．． | Cubic yards 17， 491 | \＄6， 139 | 100.0 | Square yards 3， 726 | \＄8，264 | 100.0 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pounds } \\ & 16,000 \end{aligned}$ | \＄826 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Pounds } \\ 4,325 \end{gathered}$ | \＄291 | Cubic yards 68 | \＄1， 506 | \＄2，623 | 100.0 | \＄17，026 | 100.0 |
| 1923. | 12，916 | 4，533 | 73.8 | 3，751 | 8， 320 | 100.7 | 9，270 | 478 | 2，297 | 155 | 53 | 1，174 | 1，807 | 68.9 | 14，660 | 86.1 |
| 1924 | 13，393 | 4，701 | 76.6 | 3， 839 | 8，515 | 103.0 | 12，374 | 638 | 2，258 | 152 | 67 | 1，484 | 2， 274 | 86.7 | 15，490 | 91.0 |
| 1925 | 14，299 | 5，019 | 81.7 | 3，767 | 8，355 | 101． 1 | 13， 581 | 701 | 4，718 | 318 | 64 | 1，417 | 2，436 | 92.9 | 15， 810 | 92.9 |
| 1926 | 16， 600 | 5，827 | 94.9 | 3，175 | 7，042 | 85.2 | 14， 070 | 726 | 3， 629 | 245 | 68 | 1， 506 | 2，477 | 94.4 | 15， 346 | 90.1 |
| 1927 | 16， 599 | 5，826 | 94.9 | 3，540 | 7，852 | 95.0 | 12， 773 | 659 | 3，301 | 222 | 64 | 1，417 | 2，298 | 87.6 | 15，976 | 93.8 |
| 1928 | 17，352 | 6，091 | 99.2 | 4，348 | 9， 644 | 116.7 | 17， 075 | 881 | 4，953 | 334 | 65 | 1，440 | 2，655 | 101.2 | 18，390 | 108． 0 |
| 1929. | 22，605 | 7，934 | 129.2 | 3，798 | 8，424 | 101． 9 | 22， 503 | 1，161 | 5， 024 | 339 | 81 | 1，794 | 3， 294 | 125． 6 | 19，652 | 115． 4 |
| 1930 | 24，169 | 8，483 | 138.2 | 4，324 | 9，591 | 116.0 | 26， 852 | 1，386 | 7，750 | 522 | 122 | 2，702 | 4，610 | 175.7 | 22，684 | 133.2 |
| 1931 | 27，845 | 9，774 | 159.2 | 3，995 | 8，861 | 107.2 | 30， 751 | 1，587 | 12，216 | 823 | 141 | 3， 123 | 5， 533 | 210.9 | 24，168 | 141.9 |
| 1932 | 23， 989 | 8，420 | 137.2 | 4， 055 | 8，994 | 108.8 | 29， 243 | 1，509 | 10， 807 | 728 | 102 | 2，259 | 4，496 | 171.4 | 21，910 | 128． 7 |
| 1933 | 27，386 | 9，612 | 156.6 | 3， 743 | 8，302 | 100.5 | 32， 131 | 1，658 | 19， 249 | 1，297 | 153 | 3，389 | 6， 344 | 241.9 | 24， 258 | 142．5 |
| 1934 | 35， 117 | 12，326 | 200.8 | 2，425 | 5，379 | 65.1 | 29， 963 | 1，546 | 21，733 | 1，465 | 158 | 3，499 | 6，510 | 248.2 | 24,215 | 142.2 |

：Common excavation plus other excavation items expressed as equivalent common excavation．
${ }_{2}$ Portland－cement concrete plus other surfacing items expressed as equivalent portland－cement concrete．
Table 5．－Cost trend in highway construction

| Year | Exatation ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  | Surfacing ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  | Structures |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Composite mile |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Reinforcing steel | Structural steel |  |  | Structural concrete |  |  | Combined |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | \＃ 莈 \＆ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { M } \\ & \text { \#̈ } \\ & \text { 品 } \\ & \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | H 砉 品 |  |  | $\stackrel{5}{5}$ あ 最 |  |  |  |  |  | 若 最 | 苛 克 | $\begin{aligned} & 0 . \\ & \text { 菏 } \\ & \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{3} \end{aligned}$ | 矵 | 菅 |
| Base period， 1925 to 1929 | \＄0．35 | Cubic yards 17， 491 | \＄6，139 | 100.0 | \＄2． 22 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Square } \\ \text { yards } \\ 3,726 \end{gathered}$ | \＄8， 264 | 100.0 | \＄0．052 | Pounds $16,000$ | \＄826 | \＄0． 067 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Pounds } \\ 4,325 \end{array}$ | \＄291 | \＄22．15 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Cubic } \\ \text { yards } \\ 68 \end{array}$ | \＄1，506 | \＄2， 623 | 100.0 | \＄17， 026 | 100.0 |
| 1923 | ． 47 | 12，916 | 6，045 | 98.5 | 2.43 | 3，751 | 9，107 | 110． 2 | ． 057 | 9， 270 | 533 | 078 | 2， 297 | 180 | 23.37 | 53 | 1，239 | 1，952 | 74.4 | 17， 104 | 100.5 |
| 1924 | ． 43 | 13， 393 | 5，746 | 93.6 | 2． 40 | 3， 839 | 9， 221 | 111．6 | ． 057 | 12，374 | 711 | ． 077 | 2， 258 | 174 | 22．91 | 67 | 1， 535 | 2， 420 | 92.3 | 17，387 | 102.1 |
| 1925 | ． 39 | 14， 299 | 5，519 | 89.9 | 2． 36 | 3，767 | 8，890 | 107． 6 | ． 056 | 13， 581 | 767 | ． 067 | 4，718 | 315 | 22． 53 | 64 | 1，442 | 2，524 | 96.2 | 16， 933 | 99.5 |
| 1926 | ． 36 | 16， 600 | 6，042 | 98.4 | 2． 29 | 3， 175 | 7，258 | 87.8 | ． 053 | 14， 070 | 751 | ． 074 | 3， 629 | 267 | 22.76 | 68 | 1，548 | 2， 566 | 97.8 | 15， 866 | 93.2 |
| 1927 | ． 35 | 16，599 | 5，843 | 95.2 | 2． 29 | 3，540 | 8，110 | 98.1 | ． 051 | 12， 773 | 651 | ． 071 | 3，301 | 233 | 22.65 | 64 | 1，449 | 2，333 | 89.0 | 16， 286 | 95.7 |
| 1928 | ． 34 | 17， 352 | 5， 848 | 95．2 | 2． 10 | 4，348 | 9，113 | 110.3 | ． 049 | 17， 075 | 840 | ． 067 | 4，953 | 332 | 21． 22 | 65 | 1， 379 | 2， 551 | 97．3 | 17，512 | 102．9 |
| 1929. | ． 32 | 22， 605 | 7，143 | 116.4 | 2． 05 | 3，798 | 7，805 | 94.4 | ． 048 | 22， 503 | 1，082 | ． 059 | 5， 024 | 297 | ${ }^{21.58}$ | 81 | 1， 748 | 3，127 | 119.2 | 18， 075 | 106． 2 |
| 1930 | ． 30 | 24， 169 | 7， 323 | 119．3 | 1．86 | 4， 324 | 8，064 | 97.6 | ． 045 | 26， 852 | 1，200 | ． 061 | 7，750 | 473 | 20． 08 | 122 | 2， 449 | 4，122 | 157.2 | 19，509 | 114.6 |
| 1931 | ． 27 | 27，845 | 7，546 | 122.9 | 1． 68 | 3，995 | 6， 696 | 81.0 | ． 040 | 30， 751 | 1，227 | ． 054 | 12， 216 | 655 | 18.02 | 141 | 2，541 | 4，423 | 168． 6 | 18， 665 | 109． 6 |
| 1932 | ． 18 | 23， 989 | 4，378 | 71.3 | 1． 44 | 4， 055 | 5， 859 | 70.9 | ． 034 | 29， 243 | 994 | ． 046 | 10，807 | 499 | 15． 32 | 102 | 1，563 | 3， 056 | 116.5 | 13， 293 | 78.1 |
| 1933 | ． 26 | 27，386 | 7，066 | 115． 1 | 1． 67 | 3，743 | 6，240 | 75.5 | ． 037 | 32，131 | 1，195 | ． 046 | 19， 249 | 889 | 16.15 | 153 | 2，470 | 4， 554 | 173．6 | 17， 860 | 104.9 |
| 1934 | ． 29 | 35， 117 | 10， 184 | 165.9 | 1.91 | 2，425 | 4， 622 | 55.9 | ． 043 | 29，963 | 1，285 | ． 052 | 21，733 | 1，139 | 17.73 | 158 | 2，801 | 5，225 | 199.2 | 20， 031 | 117.6 |

[^4]STATUS OF FEDERAL－AID HIGHWAY PROJECTS
1936 FUNDS
AS OF MAY 31，1936

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CURRENT STATUS OF UNITED STATES WORKS PROGRAM HIGHWAY PROJECTS
(AS PROVIDED BY THE EMERGENCY RELIEF APPROPRIATION ACT OF 1935)
AS OF MAY 31, 1936


CURRENT STATUS OF UNITED STATES PUBLIC WORKS ROAD CONSTRUCTION


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[^0]:    ${ }^{2}$ See A Machine for Molding Laboratory Specimens of Bituminous Paving Mixtures, by J. T. Pauls, Public Roads, vol. 10, no. 2, April 1929.
    tures, by J. T. Pauls, Public Roads, vol. 10, no. 2, April 1929.
    3 Method described in The Road-Mix Manual, no. 1, issued by the Asphalt Institute.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ Failed completely within 600 wheel trips.
    8 Extrapolated by extending displacement curve.

[^2]:    Includes sand-clay and topsoil.
    ${ }^{2}$ Includes treated and untreated macadam.
    Includes sheet asphalt.
    ${ }^{1}$ Includes all block pavements.

[^3]:    ${ }^{1}$ Common excavation plus other excavation items expressed as equivalent common excavation.
    ${ }^{2}$ Portland-cement concrete plus other surfacing items expressed as equivalent portland-cement concrete
    3 Indexes and totals were calculated with the bid prices carried to I more decimal place than that to which they are shown in this tahle.

[^4]:    ${ }^{1}$ Common excavation plus other excavation items expressed as equivalent common excavation．
    ${ }^{2}$ Portland－cement concrete plus other surfacing items expressed as equivalent portland－cement concrete．
    ${ }^{3}$ Indexes and totals were calculated with the bid prices carried to 1 more decimal place than that to which they are shown in this table．

